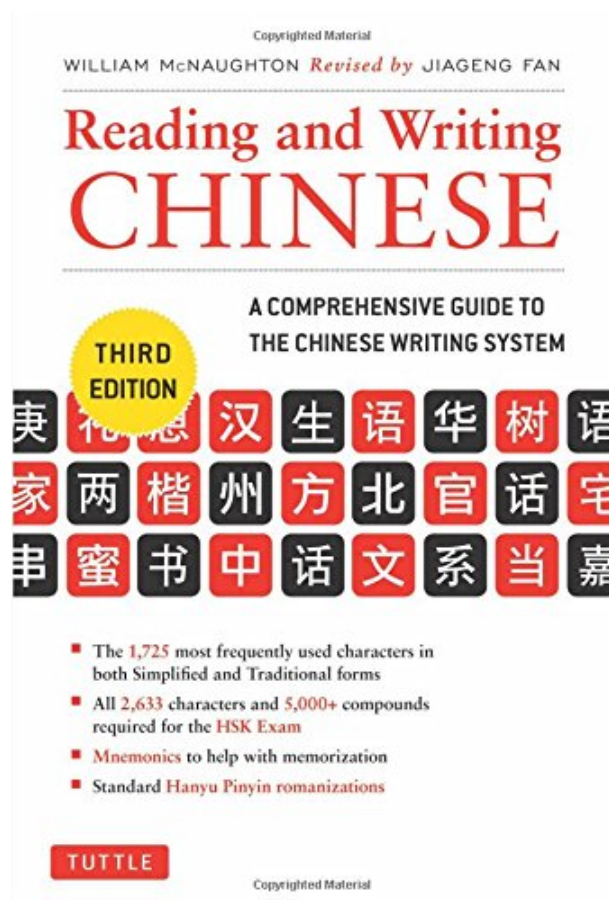


READING AND WRITING CHINESE: THIRD EDITION, HSK ALL LEVELS (2,349 CHINESE CHARACTERS AND 5,000+ COMPOUNDS) BY WILLIAM MCNAUGHTON



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WILLIAM McNAUGHTON *Revised by* JIAGENG FAN

Reading and Writing CHINESE

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO
THE CHINESE WRITING SYSTEM

THIRD
EDITION



- The 1,725 most frequently used characters in both Simplified and Traditional forms
- All 2,633 characters and 5,000+ compounds required for the HSK Exam
- Mnemonics to help with memorization
- Standard Hanyu Pinyin romanizations

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Review

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This is a complete and easy-to-use guide for reading and writing Chinese characters.

Learning written Chinese is an essential part of mastering the Chinese language. Used as a standard by students and teachers learning to read Chinese and write Chinese for more than three decades, the bestselling Reading & Writing Chinese has been completely revised and updated. Reading & Writing Chinese places at your fingertips the essential 1,725 Chinese characters' up-to-date definitions, derivations, pronunciations, and examples of correct usage by means of cleverly condensed grids. This guide also focuses on Pinyin, which is the official system to transcribe Hanzi, Chinese characters, into Latin script, now universally used in mainland China and Singapore. Traditional characters (still used in Taiwan and Hong Kong) are also included, making this a complete reference.

Newly updated and revised, these characters are the ones officially prescribed by the Chinese government for the internationally recognized test of proficiency in Chinese, the Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK). The student's ability to read Chinese and write Chinese are reinforced throughout.

Key features of this newly-expanded edition include:

- The 1,725 most frequently used characters in both Simplified and Traditional forms.
- All 2,633 characters and 5,000+ compounds required for the HSK Exam.
- Standard Hanyu Pinyin romanizations.
- More mnemonic phrases and etymologies to help you remember the characters.
- An extensive introduction, alphabetical index, and index according to stroke count and stroke order.
- Completely updated/expanded English definitions.
- Convenient quick-reference tables of radicals.
- Updated and revised compounds, plus 25% more vocabulary now offered.
- Codes to assist those who are preparing for the AP exam or the HSK exam

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Most helpful customer reviews

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Significant improvements

By MDM-P

The cover of the 3rd edition of "Reading and writing Chinese" refers to it as a revision. A significant and welcome revision, I would say:

Characters which constitute a phonetic series have been arranged in far better fashion. (E.g. the pronunciation "qing" in characters 249-253 and related "jing" in character 254)

Greater attention has been paid to pointing out the sometimes very subtle differences in the shapes of similar characters.

The definitions and etymologic and other explanations of characters are more clearly written, and, I think, are more useful in many instances.

All character entries are carefully coded as to HSK proficiency levels.

The "Chart of Modern Radicals", located inside the front cover and on the first fly page has been significantly "cleaned up". (The corresponding "Chart of Traditional Radicals" is located inside the back cover.)

This edition is printed entirely in black, which, to my eye gives it a more crisp and therefore more legible appearance.

As in the 2nd edition, the appendices entitled "Alphabetical Index" and "Stroke Index" are wonderful references.

Although not a comprehensive discussion, the prefatory section entitled "The? Pronunciation of Chinese", has been rewritten in much clearer fashion.

The "body" of the book is divided into two sections, entitled "Basic Characters" and "Remaining characters". Although this division in no way impedes learning, I would have preferred that these two segments be combined into one continuous listing of characters; I still don't comprehend why they are kept separate.

The reviser has both prolonged William McNaughton's "classic" and reworked it, rendering it an even more useful reference book and learning tool.

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent resource for learning to write Chinese

By Merry Mary

This book is an excellent resource for the Chinese student who has developed to the stage where he/she recognizes 300 or more characters. By then, it becomes very easy to get confused by the many look-alike characters. The reader can quickly look up the words under consideration and carefully note the slight differences. Then, the next time one of them appears it becomes easier to detect which word it is.

I like the way the entire book is organized. The basic 1067 characters are listed first with the stroke order for each character provided. The remaining characters for the HSK exam are included (although not the stroke order) - for a total of 2633 characters, which results in more than 5000 compound words.

Then the words are listed alphabetically using the pinyin for each character. That way if you want to see the differences between 2 words - say "you" meaning have and "kan" meaning see, you can look them up and observe the one extra stroke required to write "kan". Alternatively, you can look up characters by the stroke count - from single stroke characters up to one with 23 strokes. Also, the inside back cover contains the list of traditional radicals, which is tremendously helpful in learning and remembering both the meaning of the character and how to write it.

If the student is not to the stage where he/she understands everything in this review, then he/she is probably not yet ready for this book. However, if you are in the long process of learning to read and write Chinese, this is an excellent resource, well worth the cost.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

a friendly way to learn characters

By Joel Bjorling

Learning Chinese characters is incredibly cumbersome. I look at some and wonder how anyone can

remember all those lines and dashes! This book gives the character, shows how to draw it, defines it, and demonstrates how it is used in words (or in other characters). A helpful secret to learning characters is to see how they fit together. Often, a character is a compilation of more than one character. It is fun seeing how these compilations work; for example, the word "good" is a combination of the characters for "woman" and "child." Characters, themselves, can tell stories. Seeing the story makes learning and remembering them easier.

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